CLAIMS

1. A method for treatment of melanoma in a mammalian subject, comprising the step of administering to the subject a therapeutic agent effective to reduce the effective amount of clusterin in the melanoma cells.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antisense oligodeoxynucleotide effective to reduce the effective amount of clusterin in the melanoma cells.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the antisense oligodeoxynucleotide spans either the translation initiation site or the termination site.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the antisense oligodeoxynucleotide is modified to enhance in vivo stability relative to an unmodified oligodeoxynucleotide of the same sequence.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the modification is a (2'-O-(2-methoxyethyl) modification.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the antisense oligodeoxynucleotide consists essentially of an oligodeoxynucleotide selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID. Nos. 2 to 19.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the antisense oligodeoxynucleotide consists essentially of an oligodeoxynucleotide consisting of Seq. ID. No. 4.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the oligonucleotide has a phosphorothioate backbone throughout, the sugar moieties of nucleotides 1-4 and 18-21, the "wings", bear 2'-O-methoxyethyl modifications and the remaining nucleotides are 2'-deoxynucleotides.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the antisense oligodeoxynucleotide consists essentially of an oligodeoxynucleotide selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID. Nos. 2 to 19.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the antisense oligodeoxynucleotide consists essentially of an oligodeoxynucleotide consisting of Seq. ID. No. 4.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an RNA molecule effective to reduce the effective amount of clusterin in the melanoma cells by an RNAi mechanism.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the RNA molecule consists essentially of an oligodeoxynucleotide selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID. Nos.20 to 25.

13. A method for regulating expression of bcl-xL in a subject or cell line comprising administering to the subject or cell line an agent effective to modulate the amount of clusterin expression.